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CBS producer grilled by Westy's attorney

NEW YORK (AP) — Producer George Crile took the witness stand yesterday to face hostile questioning by a lawyer for retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland, who says in a \$120 million lawsuit he was libeled by one of the CBS official's programs.

Mr. Crile, a co-defendant with the network in the nine-week-old trial, was questioned extensively about the "blue sheet," the initial proposal for the 1982 documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception."

Gen. Westmoreland, who commanded U.S. forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, says he was libeled by the broadcast, which charged that Gen. Westmoreland suppressed information in 1967 that indicated enemy strength much larger than had been believed.

The blue sheet Mr. Crile submitted to network executives in November 1980 included extensive quotations from former military officers, several of whom later appeared on the broadcast in which they described officers on Gen. Westmoreland's staff arbitrarily reducing estimates of enemy troop strength. Under questioning by Westmoreland attorney Dan Burt, Mr. Crile conceded that at the time he wrote the blue sheet he had not interviewed those officers himself.

Instead, he said, he relied on information from ex-CIA analyst Sam Adams, who later became a CBS consultant on the project and is a co-defendant in the suit.

Mr. Crile said he had an open mind as work on the broadcast began. However, he said the blue sheet "did identify Gen. Westmoreland as having blocked a report by his intelligence chief and his order-of-battle chief from having gone on to Washington."

Mr. Crile's testimony was expected to be interrupted today for an appearance by former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

Before Mr. Crile began his testimony, the attorneys for the two sides looked back on the trial's progress.

"The defendants would have you believe that their broadcast was true," Mr. Burt told jurors during one of the unusual "interim summations" that U.S. District Judge Pierre N. Leval has allowed attorneys to make at key points in the trial. "That's simply ridiculous."

Mr. Burt relied heavily on a newly discovered document introduced Tuesday that included handwritten notations by Gen. Westmoreland and supported Gen. Westmoreland's story that after learning of higher enemy strength estimates in May 1967 he demanded a briefing.